



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE

Mayor

250 City Hall

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

May 24, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
The United States Capitol, H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader of the House
United States House of Representatives
The United States Capitol, H-107
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker and Leader Hoyer:

I am writing to support H.R. 4213, the American Jobs, Closing Tax Loopholes, and Preventing Outsourcing Act. This legislation is absolutely critical to sustaining the economic recovery our cities are experiencing. H.R. 4213 will extend essential aid programs to the later part of 2010, which will ensure Baltimore's workforce continues to receive healthcare and benefits integral to rebuilding lives.

I especially want to applaud several key items in the package vital to Baltimore's continued recovery. The bill extends:

- 1) ARRA small business guaranteed loan lending and fee reduction authorities
- 2) Tax deductions on certain expenses for elementary and secondary schoolteachers
- 3) Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act
- 4) Temporary Disaster Relief provision, National Disaster Relief
- 5) Tax credits for new energy efficient home expenditures
- 6) Provisions for Build America Bonds
- 7) Funding for summer jobs programs
- 8) Low-income housing tax credits
- 9) COBRA
- 10) TANF

Maryland was designated a disaster area this past February in response to two record-breaking massive blizzards that blanketed the region. The Temporary Disaster Relief provision in H.R. 4213 will help our residents refinance property that has been damaged or destroyed as a result of the storms.

Furthermore, Baltimore is still experiencing unemployment rates above 15 percent in some areas. The extension of vital programs like COBRA, TANF and unemployment compensation funds will provide crucial support to those seeking job opportunities.

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Phone: 410.396.3835 fax: 410.576.9425 e-mail: mayor@baltimorecity.gov

The burgeoning green economy may be our nation's best long-term economic growth possibility. Baltimore has embraced sustainability by implementing green practices within multiple government operations. Continued incentives that allow residents to fully capitalize on green expenditures broaden the benefits of the green economy and make them felt within the daily lives of our citizens.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass the extenders package as soon as possible so the above benefits can be realized and our economic recovery can continue through the rest of the year. Should you need any additional information or assistance, please contact Andrew Smullian in my Office of Government Relations at (410) 396-7208 or at Andrew.Smullian@baltimorecity.gov. Thank you for your leadership and tireless efforts in shepherding this crucial legislation to a vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Rawlings-Blake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor
Baltimore City

cc: Sophie Dagenais, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Kimberly Washington, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Kaliopé Parthemos, Deputy Mayor
Karen Sitnik, Director, Mayor's Office of Employment Development
Diane Hutchins, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Andrew Smullian, Senior Policy Advisor, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Zina Pierre, Washington Linkage Group

